

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of initiating a procedure within a building comprising the steps of:

- a. defining at least one initiating event for the procedure;
- b. defining at least one requirement for the procedure;
- c. defining at least one person to be authorized to perform the procedure;
- d. detecting the occurrence of the at least one initiating event;
- e. generating a virtual key for the at least one person based on the at least one requirement upon detecting the occurrence of the at least one initiating event and prior to the at least one person arriving at the building;
- f. transmitting the virtual key to the at least one person;
- g. detecting use of the virtual key;
- h. checking the validity of the virtual key; and
- i. initiating the procedure within the building if the validity check is positive; and
- j. performing said steps a. through i. in an access control computer system associated with the building.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21 further comprising a step of assigning an encrypted code to the virtual key.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21 further comprising the steps of:

- adding a signature to the virtual key; and
- identifying a recipient of the transmitted virtual key by the signature.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21 further comprising the step of defining different procedures for different initiating events.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21, further comprising the step of defining different requirements for different procedures.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21 further comprising the step of transmitting different virtual keys to the at least one person for different initiating events.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21 further comprising the step of storing the virtual key partially or completely.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21 further comprising the step of identifying the at least one person with biometric characteristics.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21 further comprising performing said step i. as at least one of the steps of:

initiating a control procedure of an elevator in the building;

initiating a medical assistance procedure;

initiating a building cleaning procedure; and

initiating a guest reception procedure.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21 further comprising the step of transmitting the virtual key using wireless devices.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of initiating a procedure within a building comprising the steps of:

- a. defining at least one initiating event for the procedure;
- b. defining at least one of a security requirement and an availability requirement for the procedure;
- c. defining at least one person to be authorized to perform the procedure;
- d. detecting the occurrence of the at least one initiating event;
- e. generating a virtual key for the at least one person based on the at least one requirement upon detecting the occurrence of the at least one initiating event and prior to the at least one person arriving at the building;
- f. transmitting the virtual key to the at least one person;
- g. detecting use of the virtual key;
- h. checking the validity of the virtual key; ~~and~~
- i. initiating the procedure within the building if the validity check is positive; and
- j. performing said steps a. through i. in an access control computer system associated with the building.